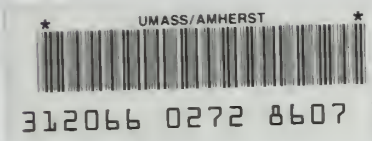
MASS. HS40.2: M69



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Mental Health

MISSION STATEMENT AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The mission of the Department of Mental Health is to improve the quality of life for adults with serious and persistent mental illness and children with serious mental illness or severe emotional disturbance. This is accomplished by ensuring access to an integrated network of effective and efficient services that promotes consumer rights, responsibilities, rehabilitation, and recovery.

DMH is committed to the following principles:

1. *Providing responsive, high quality, cost effective services.*
2. *Focusing support on the most vulnerable citizens in the Commonwealth.*
3. *Designing programs using current scientific research, evaluation studies and program outcome data.*
4. *Promoting opportunities for individuals with mental illness to participate in rehabilitation and recovery regardless of how severe their symptoms or pervasive their disabilities.*
5. *Offering consumers appropriate choices among services that are tailored to meet individual needs.*
6. *Valuing managers who are able to engage their colleagues and staff in entrepreneurial, innovative leadership that will improve the system.*
7. *Valuing input from a wide public audience and recognizing that community advocacy and advisory groups are an essential component of system planning.*
8. *Eliminating barriers to services wherever they exist.*
9. *Exploring and applying new technologies to ensure quality, cost effectiveness and the efficient use of public resources.*
10. *Assuring that the cultural and ethnic diversity of clients and staff are respected in the design and delivery of services.*

GOAL

The Department of Mental Health aims to provide a mental health system of care that is responsive and appropriate, offering services that are of high quality, accessible and cost effective. The components of the public mental health system, which must act as a safety net for the most vulnerable citizens in the Commonwealth, include community-based programs, cost efficient state hospitals, and emergency, acute inpatient and diversionary services. Services are designed to promote independence and recovery and prevent unnecessary hospitalization. The Department's goal is to provide individualized clinical care and supportive services. Services funded by DMH include: continuing care inpatient services; residential treatment and support; day services; outpatient services; medication management; educational, employment and rehabilitation opportunities for adults; and coordinated interagency programs and family and school supports for children and adolescents.

AUTHORITY

Massachusetts General Law: Chapters 19, 123
Regulations: 104 CMR
Departmental policies issued from time to time by Commissioner

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